

What is claimed is:

1. A heat-shrinkable polyester film, characterized by satisfying the following requirements, (A) to (C):

5 (A) when a square test piece cut off from said heat-shrinkable polyester film in a size of 10 cm×10 cm is immersed in hot water at 70°C for 5 seconds, subsequently in water at 25°C for 10 seconds, and withdrawn, the heat shrinkage percentage of the test piece in the maximum shrinkage direction is 10 to  
10 50%;

(B) when a square test piece cut off from the heat-shrinkable polyester film in a size of 10 cm×10 cm is immersed in hot water at 85°C for 10 seconds, subsequently in water at 25°C for 10 seconds, and withdrawn, the heat shrinkage percentage of  
15 the test piece in the maximum shrinkage direction is 70% or more and that in the direction orthogonal thereto, 10% or less;  
and

(C) when square test pieces cut off from the heat-shrinkable polyester film and the film thereof previously 10% heat shrunk  
20 in the maximum shrinkage direction in a size of 10 cm×10 cm are immersed in hot water at 95°C for 5 seconds, subsequently in water at 25°C for 10 seconds, and withdrawn, and the heat shrinkage percentages of the test pieces in the maximum shrinkage direction are designated respectively as  $X_0$  (%) and  
25  $X_{10}$  (%), the difference in heat shrinkage percentage  $\Delta$  (%)

calculated according to the following equation (1) is 10 to 20%;

$$\Delta = X_0 - X_{10}$$

5 2. A heat-shrinkable polyester film according to Claim 1,  
wherein when the heat shrinkage stress in the maximum  
shrinkage direction of the film thereof previously 10%  
heat-shrunk in the same direction is determined under the  
condition of a temperature of 90°C, a flow rate of heated air of  
10 5 m/sec, a width of the test piece of 20 mm, and a distance  
between chucks of 100 mm, the maximum heat shrinkage stress  
is 7 MPa or more.

3. A heat-shrinkable polyester film according to Claim 1 or 2,  
15 wherein when a thickness variation of a test piece thereof  
having a length of 50 cm and a width 5 cm is determined in the  
maximum shrinkage direction of the film, the thickness  
distribution calculated according to the following equation is  
6% or less.

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$$\text{Thickness distribution} = [(\text{Maximum thickness} - \text{Minimum thickness}) / \text{Average thickness}] \times 100$$

4. A heat-shrinkable polyester film according to any one of  
25 Claims 1 to 3, wherein the melt resistivity thereof is  $0.70 \times 10^8$

$\Omega \cdot \text{cm}$  or less at 275°C.

5. A heat-shrinkable label characterized by using said heat-shrinkable polyester film according to any one of Claims 1 to 4.